CLAIMS
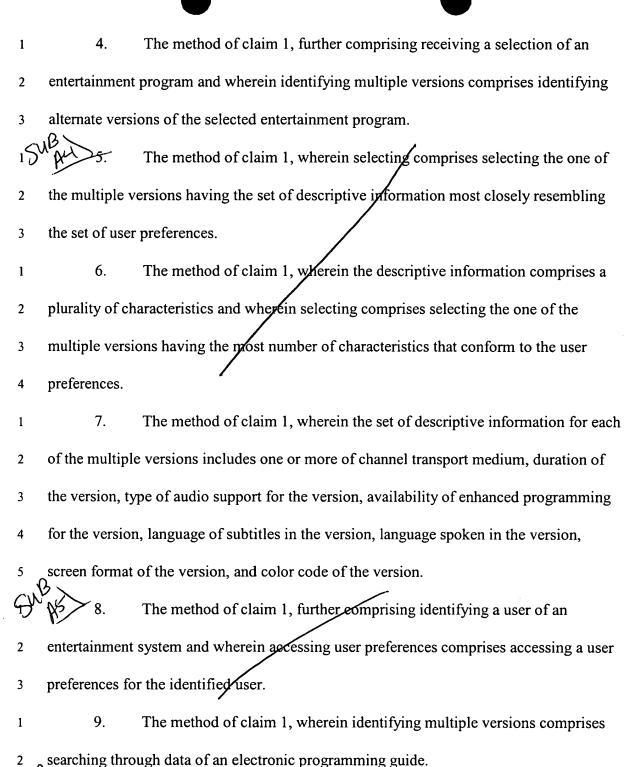
What is claimed is:

1.   A method comprising:

     receiving entertainment programming input;

     identifying multiple available versions of an entertainment program;

     identifying, for each of the multiple versions, a set of descriptive information regarding the respective version;

     accessing user preferences; and

     selecting one of the multiple versions for display based on a comparison of the descriptive information to the user preferences.

2.   The method of claim 1, wherein identifying comprises identifying multiple versions of the entertainment program that start within a threshold period of time of one another.

3.   The method of claim 1, wherein at least some of the multiple versions are provided on different transport media, the method further comprising:

     identifying, for each of the one or more different channel transport media, a set of descriptive information regarding the channel transport medium; and

     wherein selecting comprises comparing the sets of channel transport medium descriptive information to the user preferences.

1   4.   The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving a selection of an

2   entertainment program and wherein identifying multiple versions comprises identifying

3   alternate versions of the selected entertainment program.

1   ~~5.~~   The method of claim 1, wherein selecting comprises selecting the one of

2   the multiple versions having the set of descriptive information most closely resembling

3   the set of user preferences.

1   6.   The method of claim 1, wherein the descriptive information comprises a

2   plurality of characteristics and wherein selecting comprises selecting the one of the

3   multiple versions having the most number of characteristics that conform to the user

4   preferences.

1   7.   The method of claim 1, wherein the set of descriptive information for each

2   of the multiple versions includes one or more of channel transport medium, duration of

3   the version, type of audio support for the version, availability of enhanced programming

4   for the version, language of subtitles in the version, language spoken in the version,

5   screen format of the version, and color code of the version.

~~8.~~   The method of claim 1, further comprising identifying a user of an

2   entertainment system and wherein accessing user preferences comprises accessing a user

3   preferences for the identified user.

1   9.   The method of claim 1, wherein identifying multiple versions comprises

2   searching through data of an electronic programming guide.

~~10.~~   A storage medium having stored thereon a plurality of instructions that,

2   when executed by a processor, result in:

3   receiving entertainment programming input;

4   identifying multiple available versions of an entertainment program;

5   identifying, for each of the multiple versions, a set of descriptive information

6   regarding the respective version;

7   accessing user preferences; and

8   selecting one of the multiple versions for display based on a comparison of the

9   descriptive information to the user preferences..

1   11.   The storage medium of claim 9, wherein the plurality of instructions, when

2   executed by the processor, further result in identifying multiple versions of the

3   entertainment program that start within a threshold period of time of one another.

1   12.   The storage medium of claim 9, wherein at least some of the multiple

2   versions are provided on different transport media, wherein the plurality of instructions,

3   when executed by the processor, further result in:

4   identifying, for each of the one or more different channel transport media,

5   a set of descriptive information regarding the channel transport medium; and

6   selecting by comparing the sets of channel transport medium descriptive

7   information to the user preferences.

1   13.   The storage medium of claim 9, wherein the plurality of instructions, when

2   executed by the processor, further result in receiving a selection of an entertainment

3   program and identifying alternate versions of the selected entertainment program.

1   14.   The storage medium of claim 9, wherein the plurality of instructions, when

2   executed by the processor, further result in selecting the one of the multiple versions of

3   the entertainment program having the set of descriptive information most closely

4   resembling the set of user preferences.

1   15.   The storage medium of claim 9, wherein the set of descriptive information

2   for each of the multiple versions includes one or more of channel transport medium,

3   duration of the version, type of audio support for the version, availability of enhanced

4   programming for the version, language of subtitles in the version, language spoken in the

5   version, screen format of the version, and color code of the version.

1   16.   (Amended) An apparatus comprising:

2   a program guide controller to receive entertainment programming input;

3   a selection controller coupled to the program guide controller to identify multiple

4   available versions of an entertainment program, to identify, for each of the multiple

5   versions, a set of descriptive information regarding the respective version, to access user

6   preferences and to select one of the multiple versions for display based on a comparison

7   of the descriptive information to the user preferences; and

8   a device controller, coupled to the selection controller, to display the selected one

9   of the multiple versions of the entertainment program.

1   17.   The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the selection controller is also to

2   identify multiple versions of the entertainment program that start within a threshold

3   period of time of one another.

1   18.   The apparatus of claim 16, wherein at least some of the multiple versions

2   are provided on different transport media and wherein the selection controller is further

3   to:

4   identify, for each of the one or more different channel transport media, a

5   set of descriptive information regarding the channel transport medium; and

6   choose one of the multiple versions for display based on the sets of

7   descriptive information.

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1   19.   The apparatus of claim 16, wherein in selecting one of the multiple

2   versions for display, the selection controller is to select the one of the multiple versions of

3   the entertainment program having the set of descriptive information most closely

4   resembling the set of user preferences.

1   20.   The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the descriptive information comprises

2   a plurality of characteristics and wherein in selecting the selection controller is to select

3   the one of the multiple versions having the most number of characteristics that conform to

4   the user preferences.

1   21.   The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the set of descriptive information for

2   each of the multiple versions includes one or more of duration of the version, type of

3   audio support for the version, availability of enhanced programming for the version,

4   language of subtitles in the version, language spoken in the version, screen format of the

5   version, and color code of the version.